GOVERNMENT BILLS

THE NAVY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I would not take much time of the House. Just to remind, this has a very long history. The Bill was first moved in 1996. Then, it was moved in 1997. Thereafter, it went to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee made certain recommendations. The Bill was reintroduced here. When it was considered then, at some point of time, it was suggested–of course, I was sitting on that side at that time–that the Coast Guard Amendment Bill was under consideration of the House and the Select Committee had made certain recommendations, and those recommendations should be looked into. So, the consideration of the Bill was deferred. Thereafter, during the whole period of 12th Lok Sabha, the Bill could not be brought. Subsequently, during the 13th Lok Sabha also the Bill could not be brought.

Then it was suggested, when we wanted to bring the Bill, that as so many Governments have changed in the intervening period, fresh Cabinet approvals are to be required. And after obtaining the Cabinet approval, we have introduced this Bill. There are certain provisions, about seven or eight, which are quite innocuous. One, of course, is that we have changed the figure from '1997' to '2005' in the Title. In the main text of the Bill you find this. I am not giving the exhaustive amendments and the proposed suggestions, but some examples are there. For instance, even there be a leave without absence. There is no other way. Either you are to let him off without penalising anyway, or you have to go to the extreme step of court marshal. So, we are making certain provisions analogous with the existing provisions. Now, sometimes, the Ex-Service personnel are deployed. But you cannot enforce disciplinary procedure against him because the definition does not cover the re-deployed persons. So, these types of amendments are being considered in this Bill.

I recommend this Bill for the consideration of the House and if some Members raise any issue at some point of time, I would like to respond to those issues. Of course, there are certain Government amendments, which we have received. I would like to move them as and when the situation arises. With these words, I recommend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): There is no Member to speak on this. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Clause 1. There is one amendment No. 2 by Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Clause 1 (Short Title)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I move:

2. That at page 1, line 3, **for** the figure "1997" the figure "2005" be *substituted.*

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, *as amended, was added to the Bill.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): The Enacting Formula. There is one amendment by Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Enacting Formula

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I move:—

That at page 1, line 1, **for** the world "Forty-eighth" the world "Fifty-sixth" be *substituted.*

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.